

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification by amending the paragraphs starting on page 1, line 1, and ending on page 5, line 19, as follows:

DAHLIA PLANT NAMED 'COCOS'

Genus and species of the plant claimed:

Dahlia hortorum(hybrid)

Variety denomination:

Cocos

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Dahlia* plant, botanically known as *Dahlia hortorum*(hybrid), and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Cocos'. The new cultivar 'Cocos' is a product of a planned breeding program and was selected by the Inventor, Jan SkejdSkjold Knudsen, in Fyn, Denmark. The new cultivar 'Cocos' originated from a cross made by the Inventor between the *Dahlia* cultivar designated 'Malaysia' (unpatented) as the female parent and the *Dahlia* cultivar designated 'Tonga' (unpatented) as the male parent.

Asexual reproduction by cuttings of the new variety in Fyn, Denmark has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as described herein for 'Cocos' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of asexual reproduction. The new variety reproduces true to type.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

‘Cocos’ has not been tested under all available environmental conditions and the phenotype may vary with variations in environmental conditions such as temperature, light intensity, day length and humidity, without a change in genotype of the plant.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Cocos’. The following characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Cocos’ as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Yellow ~~flower~~ray floret color, RHS 2B;
2. Compact plant habit; and
3. Vigorous growth habit.

Side-by-side comparisons between the new *Dahlia* cultivar ‘Cocos’ and the parental cultivars, ‘Malaysia’ and ‘Tonga’, were conducted by the Inventor in Fyn, Denmark. ‘Cocos’ differs from the female parental cultivar ‘Malaysia’ primarily in ray floret color. ‘Cocos’ has yellow ray florets, RHS 2B, whereas the ray floret color of ‘Malaysia’ is light purple, RHS 75A to 75B. The leaves and inflorescence of ‘Malaysia’ are smaller than the leaves and inflorescence of ‘Cocos’. ‘Cocos’ differs from the male parental cultivar, ‘Tonga’, primarily in ray floret color. ‘Cocos’ has yellow ray florets, RHS 2B, whereas the ray floret color of ‘Tonga’ is yellow-orange, RHS 44A. ‘Tonga’ also has disk florets in which the anthers show through the unopened disk floret corollas.

Of the commercial cultivars known to the Inventor, the most similar in comparison to the new *Dahlia* cultivar ‘Cocos’ ~~is a~~ is the female parental cultivar *Dahlia* variety named ‘Malaysia’ (unpatented). ‘Cocos’ differs from ‘Malaysia’ primarily in flower color. ‘Cocos’

~~has yellow flowers, RHS 2B, whereas the flower color of 'Malaysia' is light purple RHS 75A to 75B. The leaves and inflorescence of 'Malaysia' are smaller than the leaves and inflorescence of 'Cocos'.~~

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying color photographs illustrate the overall appearance and details of flowerinflorescence form color and structures of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in color reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description, which ~~more~~ accurately describe the actual colors of the new *Dahlia*.

The first photograph is a side view of a typical flowering plant of 'Cocos' as grown in an 11 cm pot. The second photograph is a top view of a typical flowering plant of 'Cocos'. The third photograph is a close-up of the flowerinflorescence of 'Cocos'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

The following observations, measurements and values describe 8 week old plants grown in 11 cm containers under commercial conditions. Plants described were grown in a greenhouse in Fyn, Denmark with average day temperatures of 18 °C to 25 °C, and night temperature of 16 °C. All color references are measured against the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Colour Chart. Colors are approximate as color depends on horticultural practices such as light level and treatment rate, among others, without however any variance in genotype.

PLANT:

Form: Globular, upright

Height: 15 cm

Spread: 18 cm

Natural flowering season: Summer to fall

Crop time: After rooting, about 10 - 12 weeks are required to produce
finished flowering plants in 11 cm pots

Plant vigor: Vigorous

Root structure: Fibrous

Stem: Yellow-green RHS 144B, glabrous; diameter 10-12 mm

Lateral branches: 12 – 14 in quantity; 7-10 mm diameter; 10 cm in length
(including flower inflorescence); yellow-green,
RHS 144C

Internode length: 3 cm

Foliage:

Leaflets:

Quantity: 4 – 5 pairs per lateral branch

Arrangement: Opposite, decussate

Length: Up to 10 cm, generally about 5 cm.

Width: 6 – 7 cm, generally about 3-4 cm

Shape: Elliptical, acuminate tip, decurrent base, crenate margin

Texture: Glabrous

Color: Young leaf upper side: green RHS 135 A; young leaf underside
gray-green RHS 189 C; mature leaf upper side: green, RHS N
134 A; mature leaf under side: gray-green RHS 189 C

Compound leaves:

Quantity: Very few, about 10 of 60 leaves on plant are compound leaves

Arrangement and shape: Near flowers, ternate with one apical leaflet
larger than the two basal leaflets

Size: Apical leaflet (about 4 cm length x 3 cm width) and with
petiolule 5 to 10 mm in length; basal leaflets (2 cm length x
1 cm width) and are sessile to the rachis and

Venation: Vein color upper side 135C, vein color under side 144A

Petiole: 4 – 5 cm in length; 5 – 8 mm in diameter; color RHS 144A

FLOWER INFLORESCENCE:

Arrangement: Composite flowersinflorescences in leaf axils

Inflorescence type: Capitulum

Inflorescence height: 3 – 4 cm

Inflorescence width: 6 – 7 cm

Flowering habit: Upright

Quantity of flowersinflorescences: 2 per lateral stem

FlowerInflorescence longevity: 7 days on the plant

Bud:

Quantity: 2-3 per lateral stem; (buds continue to develop when dead
flowers are removed)

Shape: Globular

Size: Up to 2 cm in length, 1 cm diameter

Color: RHS 144C

Petal Florets:

Appearance: Disc, tubular to single, fused petal floret (lanceolate to rounded tip); ray, single fused floret (almost circular, to involute at the sides and with rounded tip)

Shape: Disc, lanceolate; ray oval, involute

Number: Disc, 5 fused; ray, 5 fused; with about 20 disk florets and 70 ray florets per capitulum (depending on light and temperature conditions)

Length: Disc 3 – 4 mm, ray 25 – 30 mm

Width: Disc 3 mm, ray 25 – 30 mm

Diameter: Disc 2-3 mm

Margin: Entire

Apex: Rounded

Color: Disk: Upper side: transparent yellow, RHS 2D, letting the color of the anthers come through from green, yellow, RHS 1B, before anthesis, to orange, RHS 14A, at anthesis; Ray: Upper side, yellow RHS 2 B (mature and immature), under side yellow, RHS 2 C (both mature and immature)

SepalsPhyllaries:

Length: 40-3 mm

Width: 5 mm

Margin: Entire

Base: Fused

Apex: Rounded

Color: Immature upper side RHS 138A; immature under side RHS 143D with stripes RHS 143A; mature upper side RHS 137A; under side RHS 191B with stripes RHS 143A

Calyx: 3 mm length, 17 mm diameter

Peduncle: 4 – 6 cm length, 3 mm diameter; strength: strong; color RHS 144C

Reproductive organs:

Androecium:

Location: Disk florets only

Anthers: 4 mm in length, RHS 23B

Pollen: RHS 14A

Gynoecium:

Location: Disk and ray florets

Pistils: 1 per disc floret, 1 per ray per floret, 15 mm length

Stigma: RHS 14A

Style: 9 mm length, RHS 14A

Ovary: RHS 150B

Temperature tolerance: High tolerance to 35 °C; low tolerance to 0 °C